

written accounts of the tribes of western thistles for the forthcoming volume of LeRoy Abrams' *Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States*. Mr. Howell is spending a month in Washington and Oregon where he will study thistles in the field as well as visit various scientific institutions to look through herbarium collections.

Having attended the meeting of the Pacific Division of the A.A.A.S. at Corvallis, Mr. Howell plans to visit the University of Oregon at Eugene, Willamette University at Salem, the University of Washington, Seattle, the State College of Washington at Pullman, and the University of Idaho at Moscow.

Mr. George Pronin, assistant in the Department of Entomology, is spending most of the summer in the vicinity of the Entomological Forestry Laboratory at Hat Creek, Shasta County. He is experimenting with the attraction of insects to chemical baits, and doing general collecting and rearing of insects. Mr. Pronin hopes to make a collection of butterflies and moths with correlated larvae.

### ONE FOR THE ROAD

It's A LONG TRIP from "way down East" (almost) to the islands of Nippon, and especially for living specimens of *Limulus* traveling in two buckets of excelsior! Professor Talbot H. Waterman from Yale University, who was taking these specimens to Japan, decided to stop over at the Steinhart Aquarium to permit the young horseshoe crabs to take a "breather swim" en route.

### NEW MEMBERS

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS were elected by the Council at its meeting of June 12, 1952:

#### REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Charles C. Buck  
Mr. Dixwell Davenport

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Zion-Bryce Natural History Association

#### STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Donn Garriott  
Richard Hunt  
Mary E. McCarthy  
Charles Rosenback  
William Tivol

# ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

NUMBER 151

JULY, 1952



*Photograph by Harold Stein*

THIS IS THE PLACE

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*Published Monthly by*

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

GOLDEN GATE PARK • SAN FRANCISCO



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## *July Announcement*

THE REGULAR JULY MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in the Morrison Auditorium in the Academy's Hall of Science, Golden Gate Park, on Wednesday evening, July 23, 1952, at 8 o'clock. Mr. Harold Stein, well known lecturer and naturalist and a member of the Academy's staff, will present an illustrated lecture on his

### TAHITIAN TRAVELS

Mr. Stein will show color slides which he has made over a period of years, photographs of many primitive, unspoiled places in the jungles and mountains of the Pacific Islands where few changes have occurred since the visit of the first white man. There will also be a spectacular color film of Tahiti and the South Seas, showing coral-studded lagoons, ceremonial hula dances, and native life on the palm-fringed shores.

Harold Stein is well known to San Francisco audiences for his interesting lectures both before and since his sojourn of twenty years in the South Pacific. He has just completed a successful series of illustrated Sunday lectures at the Academy which have been enjoyed by many people. For them, this meeting offers additional opportunity for a pleasant evening; for those who have not heard him, a new treat is in store.

The public is cordially invited.

### NEW SKELETONS (NOT THE CLOSET VARIETY)

THE HIDES and skeletons of a rhinoceros and a hippopotamus have been received at the Academy and will be prepared as mounted specimens for exhibition, augmenting the Museum's collection of large mammals from Africa. These were obtained through Colonel Dean Witter, a trustee of the Academy, who conducted an African expedition on behalf of the Academy last year. Since he was unable to obtain these particular two animals on his expedition, he arranged to have them collected by local hunters.

Colonel Witter was also instrumental in securing a large collection of African birds and small mammals which were collected and prepared by John G. Williams of the Coryndon Museum at Nairobi.

## DR. MILLER ATTENDS A.A.A.S. MEETING

DR. ROBERT C. MILLER, Director of the Academy, attended the thirty-third annual meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Oregon State College, Corvallis, Oregon, June 16-21. Dr. Miller is Secretary-Treasurer of the Pacific Division of the Association, and a member of its Executive Committee.

### BOTANY BRANCHES OUT

A GLOW of satisfaction and pleasure is quite evident as Miss Elizabeth McClintock, Assistant Curator of Botany, relates events and activities of her recent study trip to Grand Canyon National Monument. Although just west of Grand Canyon National Park, this area is entirely undeveloped and is accessible only by 65 miles of primitive dirt road.

Members of the exploring party camped about one mile from the rim of the canyon, from where they could look down on the Colorado River 3,000 feet below and hear the roar of the rapids. A great deal of interest attaches to the area because of the remains of volcanic activity. One cinder cone is of particular interest, being bare of trees while the adjacent area supports piñon and juniper. Water pockets in the sandstone rocks were filled with tadpoles and fairy shrimps.

A few of the more daring hikers, including Miss McClintock, went down the steep, sheer cliffs of the canyon wall to the level of the rushing river, and of course, up again! They report a wide variation in vegetation and temperatures at different elevations.

Relatively few botanists have collected in this area, and very few women have made the descent into the canyon. Thus it is no wonder that Miss McClintock considers the trip quite successful. She collected approximately 200 different species of plants, and established extended distribution ranges for a number of species.

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THE BOTANY DEPARTMENT has recently received 428 plant specimens collected in the Himalaya during the Academy's expedition there last year. The specimens were prepared for shipment and many of them identified through the courtesy of the Forest Research Institute and Colleges of the Government of India. This expedition was arranged by Mr. Francis P. Farquhar, President of the California Academy of Sciences, on his visit to India last year. It was led by Mr. F. A. Charlton-Thomas.

### BUSMEN'S HOLIDAYS

SEVERAL Academy staff members and assistants will be found taking a busmen's holiday this summer:

Mr. John Thomas Howell, Curator of Botany, has been invited to prepare